

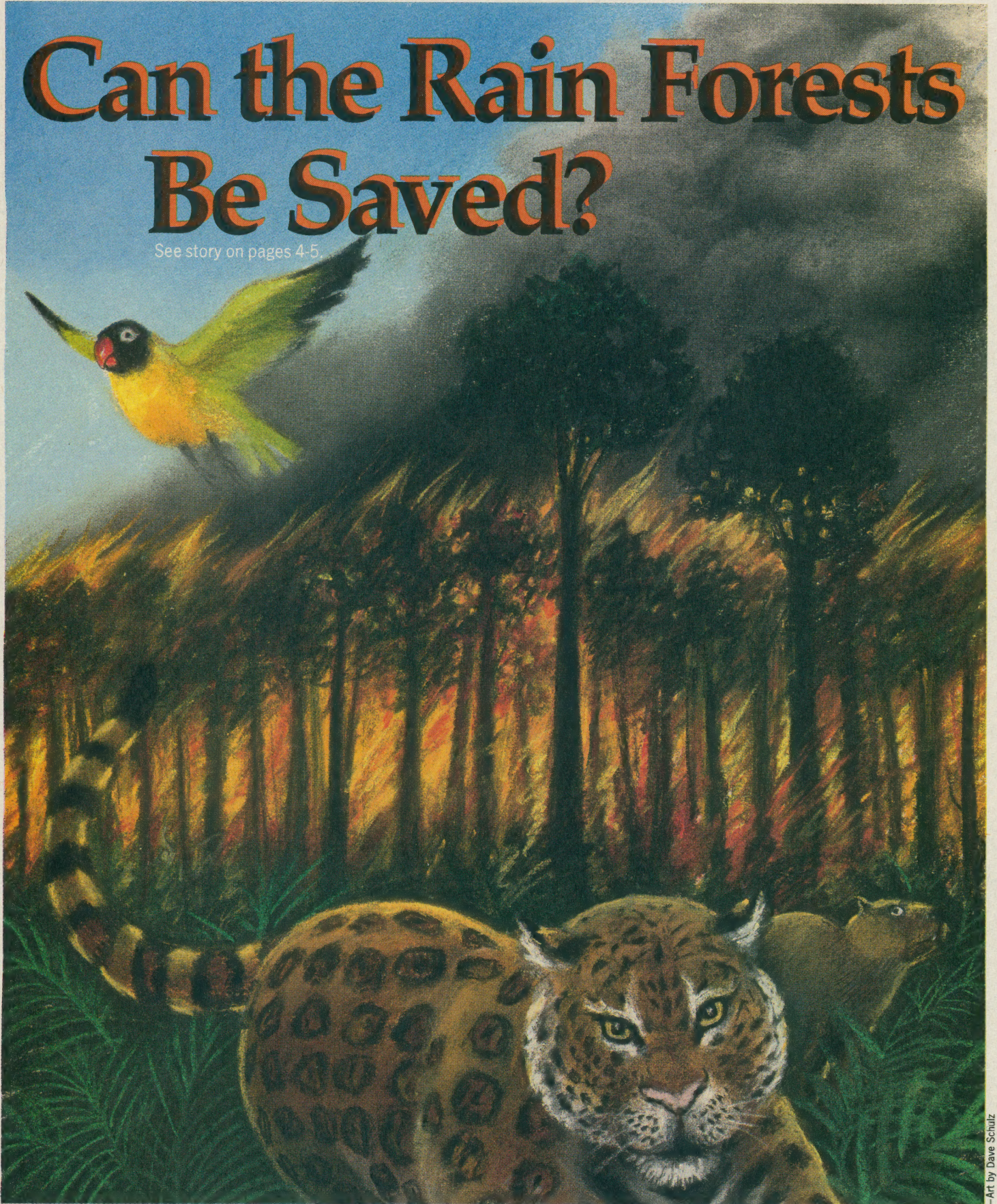
# Weekly Reader®

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April 6, 1990

Senior Edition

## Can the Rain Forests Be Saved?

See story on pages 4-5.



Art by Dave Schulz

Your next issue of *Weekly Reader* will be dated April 20, 1990.



## Schools Attack Bully Problem

Many schools are working on new ways to solve the problem of bullies.

In North Hollywood, Calif., kids go to "charm school" for ten weeks. Then they become "Conflict Busters."

Conflict Busters wear special sashes to identify them. When Conflict Busters see that a fight is about to break out, they step in and help kids find peaceful ways to solve their problem.

In London, England, kids run their own "bully" courts. Student judges listen to evidence from a kid accused of being a bully and a kid who claims to be the victim.

Bullies found guilty in these courts may have to stay after



"Conflict busters" wearing sashes try to stop a playground fight.

school, eat lunch alone, or miss a field trip.

Schools in Durham, N.C., have role-playing sessions to try to stop bullying. In these sessions, one student plays a bully and another plays the victim. If name-calling heats up too much, the teacher

stops the play. Then the bully and victim are asked to act out other ways they could have handled their anger.

**Discuss:** How do you think the problem of bullies could be handled in your school?

## DDT Ban Helps Eagle Comeback



The bald eagle gets its name from its white head feathers, which appear when a bird is about five years old.

The bald eagle, the U.S. national bird, is making a grand comeback.

Wildlife officials are considering moving the bald eagle from the "endangered" list of animals to the "threatened" list in the lower 48 states. (Bald eagles have never

been in danger in Alaska, and no wild bald eagles live in Hawaii.)

Federal officials say that an animal species is *endangered* if its numbers are so small that it is on the verge of becoming extinct in all or most of the places it lives in naturally. A *threatened* species has a population that is fairly large, but it still needs some protection.

A 1989 count found nearly 2,700 nesting pairs of bald eagles in the lower 48 states. In 1963, there were only 417.

Eagle experts say a 1972 ban on the pesticide DDT is the main reason for the eagle comeback.

DDT washed into streams. Fish in these streams got DDT in their systems. Eagles that ate these fish got DDT in their systems too. The DDT caused the shells of eggs laid by the eagle to be so thin that they broke easily. Few young eagles hatched.

## Everest Climb Set for Earth Day

Fifteen top mountain climbers from the U.S., China, and the Soviet Union are set to make a "peace climb" of Mt. Everest—the highest mountain in the world. Their goal is to reach the mountain's peak by Earth Day—April 22.

Jim Whittaker, 61, of Seattle, Wash., the first American to climb Mt. Everest, will lead the expedition. The climbers will make their attempts for the top in groups of three. The first group should make its attempt on April 22, depending on weather conditions.

Some funds for the expedition have come from people who want Earth Day messages placed on Everest's peak. Each message cost \$5.

Mt. Everest, 29,028 feet high, is located on the border between Nepal and China. Some people call this Himalayan peak "the roof of the world."





—Art by Chari Radin

# For Milk-Making, Cows Like a Melody

Play hard rock for some cows, and they won't even go into the barn. Other cows produce more milk when farmers blast the screeching strains of heavy metal. Still other cows produce more milk when they hear classical music.

Alicia Evans of Sidney, Ill., has discovered these facts and many others in experiments on how music affects milk production.

Evans, a registered music therapist, got the idea for her experiments when she noticed that her cat, Bucky, always sat on the piano bench whenever Evans played.

## Some Like Classical

Evans tried playing different kinds of music during the two-week period at twice-a-day milking sessions for some cows.

She played classical music, hard rock, country-western tunes, chamber music (soft music played mostly by stringed instruments), and tapes of everyday noises.

Evans found that cows produced the most milk while listening to

classical music, such as the works of Beethoven and Haydn.

Some of these cows were rock fans. But some holsteins wouldn't even go inside when they heard rock music. And even after the

farmer led the reluctant cows into the barn for milking, they gave less milk than usual.

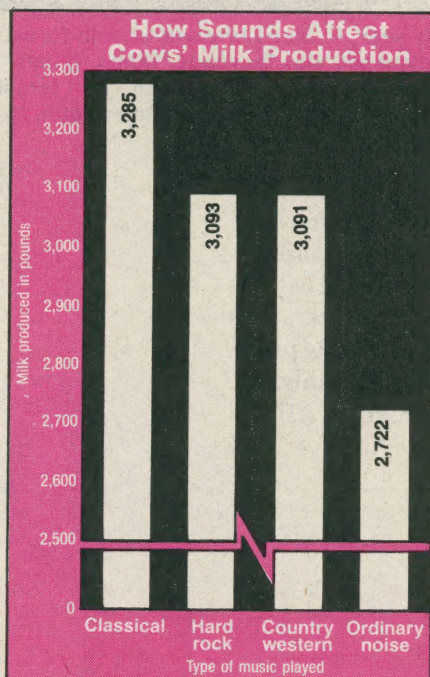
## Some Like Rock

Evans pursued the experiment further. She studied a group of holsteins that had been used to hearing rock music played on radios in the barn at milking time.

Among these cows, the best-liked music was rock. The cows that heard hard rock music produced 11,340 pounds of milk compared with the 11,223 pounds of milk produced by the group that heard classical music.

The type of music that these cows seemed to like least was chamber music. When cows listened to this music, they produced only 10,865 pounds of milk.

In all groups of cows, lack of any music seemed to be the least effective condition for milk production. When the groups of cows were milked without any music playing, each group showed a large drop in milk production.



—Graph by Joe Carnicelli

The graph shows milk production results from one group of cows.



# Can the Rain Forest

Do you smell smoke? You probably don't, but there is smoke in Earth's atmosphere high above you. It's smoke from fires raging in the world's rain forests.

Most rain forests grow in areas of high rainfall near the equator in the Americas, Asia, and Africa. People burn these rain forests to make room for farms, mines, and roads.

The burning of the forests is also part of the reason for an increase in the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This extra carbon dioxide, scientists fear, may warm Earth's atmosphere too much.

Scientists are alarmed at the rapid destruction of the rain forest, where half of the world's 60 million species of plants and animals live. Each year, scientists say, 28 million acres of rain forest burn.

In the 30 seconds it probably took you to read the first four paragraphs of this story, 30 acres of rain forest went up in smoke.

## Rain Forest Secrets

Scientists say the rain forests' plants and animals hold many secrets:

- Dart-poison frogs, which use poison to paralyze their prey, may help doctors better understand how to treat nerve and muscle disorders in people.

- The ghost-knife fish of the Amazon can grow a new spinal chord and nerves after its tail has been cut off. Doctors want to study this fish so they can learn ways to repair nerve damage in humans.

- One kind of palm tree produces a chemical called beta carotene, which is useful in fighting cancer.

- A tree in Peru produces a chemical that has been effective in treating cancer in laboratory animals.

- Some flowers may be useful in combating AIDS.

## How Can the Destruction Be Stopped?

If scientists are to have the chance to study the rain forests, the destruction of the forests must be stopped. But how? Here's what some people are doing:

- Some governments have set aside parts of the rain forests as reserves. One of these reserves is in an area of Brazil where a man named Francisco Mendes led a fight to save the land. The Amerindians there make their living by tapping rubber trees and collecting Brazil nuts. Mendes was shot to death in 1988 by people who wanted to burn the forest.

- Some banks are offering rain-forest countries a deal. The banks are saying that these countries won't have to pay back debts they owe to the banks if they



Right: Every year, millions of acres of rain forests are burned to clear the way for roads, farms, mines, and dams. Above: One way to preserve the rain forest is to harvest products from it. Here, an Amerindian taps a rubber tree.





# sts Be Saved?

promise to preserve the rain forests.

- Some businesses are making the idea of saving the rain forest profitable. Some cosmetic companies use rain-forest rubber in makeup products. An ice-cream company, Ben & Jerry's, has a new flavor, Yanamamo Crunch, made with Brazil nuts and cashews from the rain forest. Part of the profits from the sale of the ice cream are used to save the rain forest. And a hair-care products company, Sebastian International, sells Protect the Planet T-shirts and gives part of the profits to its Rainforest Foundation.

- Children in Sweden began a Children's Rainforest project. Now children all over the world are raising money to buy acres of rain forest.



—Photos © J. Kyle Keener/Philadelphia Inquirer Matrix

## Earth Day 1990

It's April 22, and church bells are ringing all over the world. The Earth Day 1990 celebration has begun. "We want to change the world," says Denis Hayes, chairman of this year's Earth Day and organizer of the first Earth Day 20 years ago.

Twenty years ago, Earth Day was held only in the U.S. But this year, millions of people all over the world will join in the cry for a cleaner, safer environment.

The U.S. is working on some Earth-saving plans.

- A new Clean Air Act now before Congress may pass by Earth Day.

- President George Bush has proposed the planting of a billion trees a year for the next ten years.

- By next year, an army of U.S. workers called the Earth Corps may begin training. The main work of the Earth Corps will be reforesting the nation, beginning with the 1.3 million acres of land in South Carolina where trees were wiped out by Hurricane Hugo.

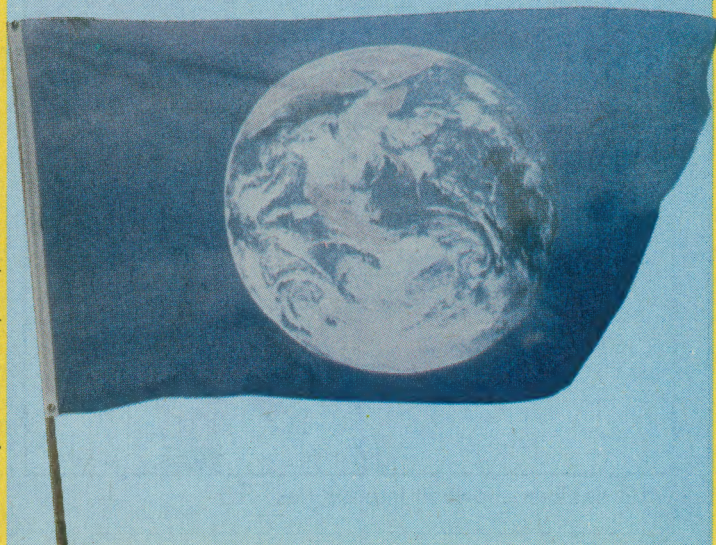
Kids are helping to save the environment too.

- Sixth graders at Upsala Elementary School in Upsala, Minn., collect newspapers for a local workshop run by disabled people. The people shred the newspapers and sell them in bales as animal bedding.

- A sixth grade class in Manchester, Conn., proposed a law that would ban certain kinds of harmful Styrofoam in their state. The law, one of the strongest in the U.S., passed late last year.

- Many U.S. schools have "adopt a vacant lot" programs to keep areas near the schools clean.

**Discuss:** How will your school celebrate Earth Day? How can your class help save Earth?



—Courtesy of The Earth Day Flag Company



## Lying Hurts Everyone

By Leon Rosenberg, Ph.D.  
Johns Hopkins Children's Center

Has a friend ever lied to you? Do you remember how you felt?

You might have felt angry and hurt. You might have felt bad that your friend didn't trust you enough to tell you the truth. Even if your friend apologized, you might have found it hard to believe him the next time he told you something.

What happens to people who tell lies? Sooner or later, they get caught. They might not remember exactly what they said the first time, and they might make a slip when they tell the story again.

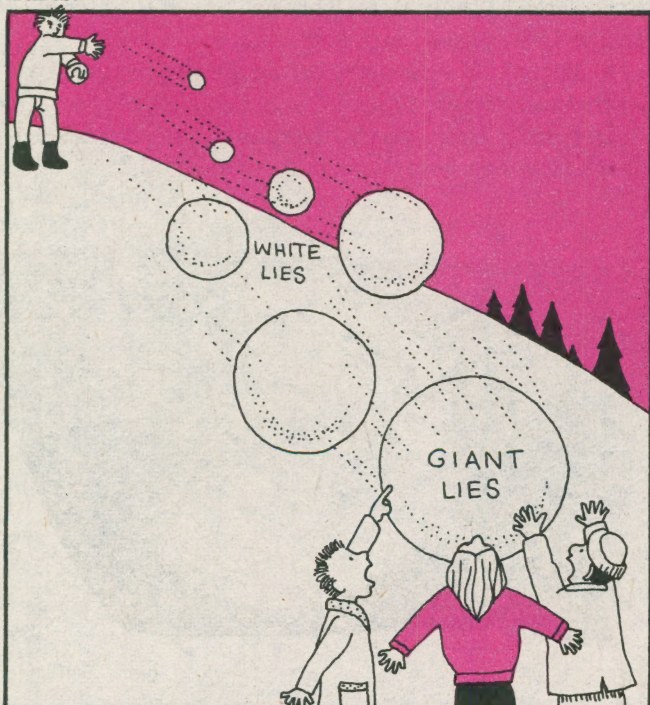
Sometimes, liars don't get caught right away. They keep making up more lies to cover up the first lie. Soon, they have told so many lies that someone finally finds out the truth.

Lying is as hard on liars as it is on the people they lie to. Lying makes liars feel terrible inside.

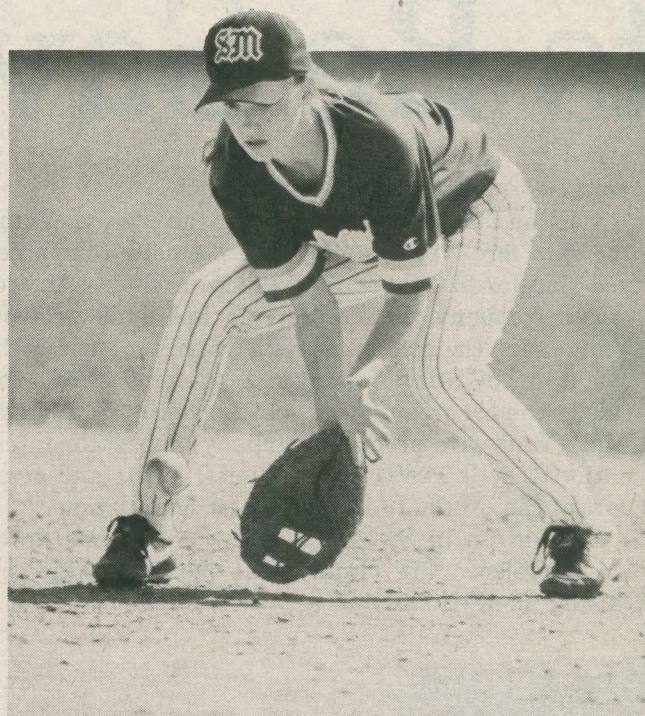
Sometimes lying can seem as if it's just for fun. Suppose you and your friends tell another friend that he's in trouble with the teacher. Your friend may get scared. You and your friends may laugh at the friend because he is so easy to fool.

When you tell your friend that you were only teasing, do you think he will just laugh at your joke? Not likely. He'll probably be very angry and hurt. He may even decide that he shouldn't be friends with your group any more.

**Remember:** Lying, even when it's "just teasing," hurts.



Little lies can snowball into big lies.



Julie's fielding for the St. Mary's College, Maryland, baseball team is considered one of her best talents.

## Woman a Hit on Ball Field

Experts say the St. Mary's College Seahawks first baseman probably doesn't have the speed or power to make it to the major leagues. But there is something special about this player: She's a first basewoman.

Her name is Julie Croteau, and last year she made history. She became the first woman to play baseball on a men's National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) baseball team. Julie is now starting her second season with the Seahawks.

During the season last year, Julie started at first base in about half of the Seahawks' games. She finished the season with a .222 batting average, but for much of the year her average was closer to .300. In the field, she made only five errors. Her coach says she had a "good start" for a freshman ballplayer.

### Loves the Game

Playing baseball with males is nothing new for Julie. She began playing Little League ball when she was six years old. Over the years, Julie's talent—and love for baseball—grew.

She fought to play on the boy's baseball team in high school. By the time she was ready for college, she knew she wanted to go to a school that would let her try out for the men's team. St. Mary's agreed.

Julie says she knows that because she's a woman, there is extra pressure on her to do well. But she also says she's glad she can be an inspiration for other women athletes. Julie says, "If you work hard and you really want to, [you] can do anything."



## Cartoon Greats Say No To Drugs

What will you be doing Saturday morning, April 21? If you're watching cartoons at about 10:30 a.m. (EST), you'll catch a special show.

The show, called "Cartoon All-Stars to the Rescue," features such cartoon stars as Bugs Bunny, Garfield, and Teenage Mu-



Cartoon stars in a special show tell kids to stay away from drugs.

tant Ninja Turtle Michelangelo. All of the characters will try to persuade a real teenage boy not to use drugs.

### A Television First

You won't have much trouble finding a channel broadcasting the

show. All three major networks and many cable stations will be showing the half-hour cartoon at the same time—and without commercials.

About 20 million U.S. kids under 12 are expected to watch this anti-drug show, the cartoon's makers say. Kids in Mexico and Canada will be able to tune into "Cartoon All-Stars to the Rescue" too.

### Many People Involved

The idea for the show first came up in 1988. The TV group that sponsors TV's Emmy awards asked many cartoon makers if they would allow their characters to be used for free in an anti-drug cartoon. The cartoon makers agreed. Next, the major TV networks agreed to show the program. Then, McDonald's donated the money to make the show.

The makers of "Cartoon All-Stars to the Rescue" say they hope the show will entertain kids as well as send them an important message: Don't use drugs.

## Senior Sleuths

Senior Sleuths Tina and Sal receive a call from Chief Henderson.

"Meet me at Sprocket Studios," the Chief says. "A thief stole \$50,000 from the studio's safe."

At the film studio, the Sleuths see the Chief standing with three suspects.

"I demand to be released," the first suspect says. "I'm Ivana Role, an actress with Sprocket. I've been in my office on the 13th floor all day."

"I want to be released too," says the second suspect. "I'm no thief. I'm an editor here. I was looking

for mistakes on a videotape we're sending to a TV network. I found quite a few today, using my magnifying glass to check the frames."

"These two are lying," the third suspect says. "I'm sure one of them stole the \$50,000 from the safe. I'm a janitor here, and I don't recognize either of them."

"What do you think?" the Chief asks the Sleuths.

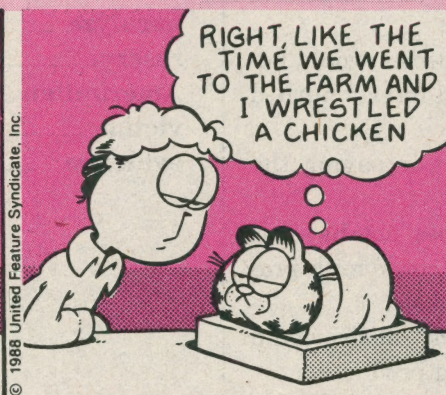
"There's nothing thick about this plot," Tina says.

"They're all guilty."

**Why does Tina suspect all three people?**

## Garfield

by Jim Davis





## Graph Reading

Study the graph at right. Then complete each statement below.

1. In 1981, about (1,000; 1,300; 1,500) pairs of bald eagles were nesting in the lower 48 states.
2. From 1963 to 1989, the number of nesting pairs of eagles grew by about (1,200; 2,200; 3,200).
3. The 1986–1989 increase in the number of nesting pairs of eagles was nearly (twice, three times, four times) as large as the 1981–1986 increase.
4. The greatest jump in the eagle population occurred (before the DDT ban, from 1974 to 1981, from 1986 to 1989).
5. In the ten years following the DDT ban, the number of nesting pairs of eagles (grew by 100, nearly doubled, nearly tripled).



The graph shows the increase in the bald eagle population in the lower 48 U.S. states.

6. If the trend shown on the graph continues, the number of nesting pairs of eagles in the lower 48 states is likely to increase by (200 or fewer, 400, 500 or more) in the next three years.

## News Comprehension

An *inference* is a conclusion drawn from facts, such as those presented in a news story. This conclusion can be true, or *valid*. Or it can be false, or *not valid* if the conclusion cannot be drawn from facts presented. Beside each statement, write *V* if the statement is a valid inference and *N* if the statement is not a valid inference.

1. The warming of Earth's atmosphere by carbon dioxide might harm living things.
2. Rain forests grow back quickly after they burn down.
3. All people in Brazil want to save their rain forests.
4. Many plant and animal species would become extinct if all the rain forests burned down.
5. Kids cannot play any part in saving the environment.
6. Country-western music does not have as strong a positive effect on cows' milk production as does classical music.
7. Hens that listened to rock music would probably increase their egg production.

8. Conflict Busters probably punish bullies.
9. Fish were harmed by DDT.
10. The eagle population in the lower 48 states was nearly wiped out by 1963.

## News Vocabulary

Beside each word in the column at left, write the letter of its definition.

- |            |       |  |
|------------|-------|--|
| conflict   | _____ | a. to make powerless or unable to move                           |
| charm      | _____ | b. a type of cow   |
| holstein   | _____ | c. something offered as proof                                    |
| paralyze   | _____ | d. fight or disagreement   |
| reserve    | _____ | e. an American Indian from either North America or South America |
| Amerindian | _____ | f. a place set aside for a specific purpose                      |
| victim     | _____ | g. a quality of being able to delight or please                  |
| evidence   | _____ | h. someone harmed or treated badly by another person             |